

demand. Give us the opportunity to turn the heads of children who would experiment with designer drugs, causing the loss of life of a very dear teen in our community, a bright athlete. We are prepared to work with you in the real solutions. We just want the political rhetoric to stop.

I am here on the floor of the House today on September 17 to say, I agree with you 100 percent. The political rhetoric will stop and those of us who want to get to work will get to work and stem the tide of drug use among teenagers in this Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BURTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

A TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST AMERICAN-BORN ARCHBISHOP OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF AMERICA—ARCHBISHOP SPYRIDON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MYERS of Kansas). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special occasion, and that is the enthronement of the newly elected Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, Archbishop Spyridon.

On September 21, 1996, the enthronement ceremony will take place in New York for Archbishop Spyridon—the first American-born leader of Greek orthodoxy in the United States since the Archdiocese was founded in 1922.

Born on September 24, 1944, in Warren, OH, George Papageorgiou is the one of Clara and the late Dr. Constantine P. George. Spyridon is actually the Archbishop's religious name which he took in honor of a fourth-century Cypriot saint who was revered for his skills as a shepherd. He chose this name when he was ordained a deacon in 1968.

For the past 5 years, Archbishop Spyridon has lived in Venice, Italy, I would like to be one of the first to welcome him back to his homeland here in America. In fact, it gives me great pleasure to note that he graduated from Tarpon Springs High School which is located in my Florida congressional district. I might add, proudly, that I was born in that city and that my wife's and my parents and grandparents immigrated there in the early part of this century.

After high school, he returned to Greece to prepare for priesthood. He studied at the famous Theological School of Halki in Turkey where he graduated with highest honors. Unfortunately, the renowned Orthodox school was closed by the Turkish Gov-

ernment in 1971, contrary to Turkey's obligations under international law.

It is my hope that our new Archbishop will work with me and others to see that this school is again open to train such talented people.

With a thirst for knowledge, Archbishop Spyridon pursued postgraduate studies at the University of Geneva in Switzerland. Having been awarded a scholarship by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, he then studied Byzantine literature at Bochum University in Germany.

Archbishop Spyridon has served as secretary at the Permanent Delegation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the world council of churches from 1966 to 1967, and later as secretary of the Orthodox Center of the Ecumenical Patriarchate at Chambesy, Geneva. He was also the director of its news bulletin from 1976 to 1985.

Also from 1976 to 1985, he was assigned duties as dean of the Greek Orthodox community of St. Andrew in Rome. Prior to his post as metropolitan of Italy, he was assigned to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Austria and Exarchate of Italy.

Certainly, his achievements are many and varied. Archbishop Spyridon is fluent in English, French, German, Greek, and Italian.

His Eminence brings with him the knowledge and insight that comes from having lived in America and Europe. I am confident that his energy, enthusiasm, and leadership will serve the Church well, as he pursues church unity between the Greek Orthodox Church and the other Orthodox communities in the United States.

In addition, I am sure that his dynamic personality will help him in addressing the interests and needs of both, the American-born and immigrant members of our church.

I wish him all the best for a bright future as the new spiritual leader of the Greek Orthodox Church of America.

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OPPOSE THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S PROPOSAL TO TAX OUTDOOR-RELATED ITEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues that this weekend I had the opportunity, as I suppose many have, of seeing a political advertisement on television; we are all being deluged with these ads that are coming on, and I saw, believe it or not, a Clinton-Gore campaign ad. In this ad they described what Bob Dole and Jack Kemp have put forward as a plan to allow the American people to keep more of their own hard-earned money. As Bob Dole says so well, it is not ours; it is theirs. They describe in

that ad that action as a risky tax scheme. Those three words are used to describe the plan to bring about a 15-percent across-the-board tax cut for working families in this country.

Then, back from California and to Washington, to get this amazing report that has come forward. For starters we have seen the information that the Clinton proposed tax cut, actually over a 10-year period, is a tax increase of \$64 billion, but, Madam Speaker, that is just the tip of the iceberg.

The latest development came forward from the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary Babbitt, who has informed us that he now wants to implement his Teeming with Wildlife Project. Now what does the Teeming with Wildlife Project consist of? It consists of a tax increase, a tax increase of from one-quarter of 1 percent to 5 percent on outdoor-related items.

Now, when one thinks of outdoor related items, this is a very far-reaching area. Some have mentioned bird seed as one of those items that would be taxed, and others have thought about the prospect of the taxation of backpacks, and I was thinking, as children have started school this month, of the increase in the tax for those children buying backpacks, and you think of the other things that relate to this: boots and parkas and all kinds of items, and this supposedly is going into a fund that is designed to fund education, recreation, and conservation projects.

Now, this administration is supposedly talking about a tax cut when the Secretary of Interior is proposing what obviously would be a tax increase, which he claims would raise approximately \$350 million, that tax on our people who are hoping to enjoy some sort of outdoor activity. It is, I believe, preposterous to have this kind of proposal come forward. As a Representative who comes to this institution from the western part of the United States, I can think of little more that would be punitive than those that want to enjoy the great outdoors, and at the rate we are going on this there might be a surcharge that Secretary Babbitt may want to impose for just enjoying the fresh air that we have out West.

Madam Speaker, I believe that it is a very, very sad day when we have got these kinds of proposals coming forward, but tragically, Madam Speaker, they are indicative of the kinds of things that this administration has done with its massive increase on middle-class wage earners and that they propose to do in the future even though they called theirs a tax cut and they described a real tax cut, that proposed by the Dole-Demp ticket as nothing more than a risky tax scheme.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join in opposition to this ludicrous proposal which has come forward from the Department of the Interior.